

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/633,685

Examiner

Peter P Nerbun

Applicant(s)

SAKAKIBARA ET AL.

Art Unit

3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the application papers.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 05 August 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 08212003
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

The patents to Mamiya and Shimizu et al are cited to disclose detachable sewing cartridges for use in electronic sewing machines.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reason for allowance of the claim 1 and its dependent claims is the inclusion in claim 1 of a needle bar position changing control unit controlling a needle bar vertically moving mechanism so that a needle bar is changed to an upper stop position irrespective of a position of the needle bar at a time of operation of the needle bar position changing unit when a thread cassette is unattached to a cassette mount according to the result of detection by a cassette detector.

The primary reason for the allowance of claim 5 is the inclusion of a needle bar position changing control unit controlling a needle bar vertically moving mechanism so that in a case where the needle bar position changing unit has been operated, the needle bar is changed to an upper stop position irrespective of a position of a needle bar at a time of operation of the needle bar position changing unit when a thread cassette is unattached to a cassette mount according to the result of detection by a cassette detector.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

If applicant has any questions regarding the instant Office action, the examiner may be contacted at (703) 308-0955 from Monday to Friday between 10:00AM to 7:30PM during alternate weeks and from Monday to Wednesday between 10:00AM to

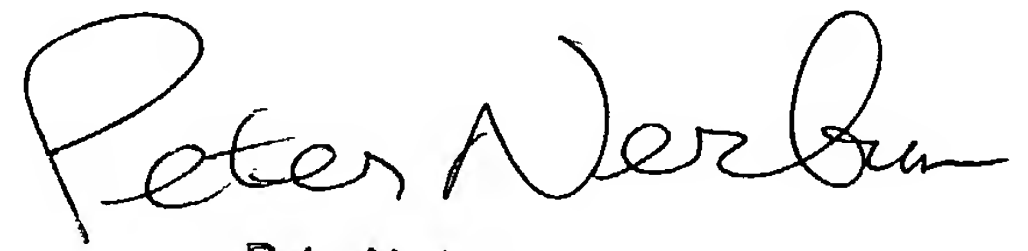
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7:30PM on the remaining alternate weeks. At other times between Monday and Friday
applicant may contact the examiner's supervisor John Calvert at (703) 305-1025.

Peter Nerbun

March 4, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Peter Nerbun". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Peter Nerbun
Primary Examiner